services operated by private air taxi operators are entitled to accident compensation as follows :—

Age of Passenger	Death or bodily injury or would which results in permanent disablement	Bodily injury which results in a temporary disablement
12 years or more . .	Rs. 5,00,000/-	Rs. 500 per day for every day during which he continues to be so disabled or a sum of Rs. 1,00,000 whichever is less.
Below 12 years . .	Rs. 2,50,000/-	

(c) DGCA has constituted teams at Delhi and Bombay to audit safety aspects of air taxi operations. Operational and airworthiness aspects of aircraft are also monitored regularly. Action is taken to get deficiencies removed.

95. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) what expenditure was incurred by Government on celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of Civil Aviation;

(b) whether the cost was shared by the public sector units under the Ministry of Civil Aviation with break-up thereof, if any;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have given away wrist watches and monetary gifts as part of the above celebrations; and

(d) if so, the cost of such wrist watches and whether Government's purchase procedure was followed, with details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Government did not incur any expenditure on celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of Civil Aviation.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Air India gave monetary rewards and especially designed wrist watches to its employees and special invitees as part of the celebrations. Air India selected watches for the purpose which cost approximately Rs. 142 lakhs after obtaining quotations and samples from two leading watch manufacturers namely M/s. HMT and M/s. Titan; M/s Allwyn did not send their quotation. A tender committee of Air India took the decision on purchase of watches.

Improvement in the functioning of Air India

96. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether any steps have been taken to improve the functioning of Air India in 1993;

(b) if so, the details of such steps;

(c) whether any measures are proposed to be taken so that the passengers are not harassed by frequent cancellation of Air India flights; and

(d) if so, the details of such measures ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) A new computer reservations system (USAS 2000) has been introduced effective May, 1992 significantly improving the response time so that passengers are handled faster and more efficiently. The system offers advance seat reservation and a host of other facilities to passengers.

With effect from summer (March 1992) the format of the Air-India timetable was changed from routes to city-pair making it easier for passengers to plan their itinerary when travelling on Air-India.

Under the new city-pair format, passengers are able to refer to the specific origin to destination schedules required by them rather than referring to the schedules applicable to the entire route.

To assist Air-India frontline managers directly interacting with corporate travellers, a specially designed sales manual containing travel related data has been developed for use at all Air India stations.

To extend personalised service through a standardised response worldwide from the Air India system, all consumer contact officers and staff underwent extensive training during the period June 01—November 30, 1992. This specialised training will be repeated each year. Orders have been placed for four B-747—400 aircraft due for delivery in 1993 and 1994 to enhance passenger appeal. Steps are underway to improve industrial relations to make the employees better motivated to serve the passengers.

(c) and (d) All efforts are being made by the departments concerned to avoid cancellations for reasons which are within the control of Air India; for this regular review meetings are held to monitor and improve the position.

Helicopters acquired by Pawan Hans Ltd.

97. SHRI SURESH KALMADI :
SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Pawan Hans Ltd. plans to acquire a new flet of light helicopters;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the number of helicopters proposed to be acquired and details of their cost ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c) Pawan Hans Limited has added one light helicopter to its fleet at a cost of Rs. 3.32 crores (approx.) to meet increasing demand for such category of aircraft. The Company has projected a requirement of 7 light helicopters during the Eighth Plan Period.

Delayed flight due to petty quarrel

98. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that flight No. IC-861 from Delhi to Ahmedabad and Baroda in April, 1993 was delayed due to a petty fight between the pilot and the other members of the crew;

(b) if so, the details of this delay and reasons thereof; and

(c) what disciplinary steps are propsed to be taken to ensure that passengers of Indian Airlines are not harassed in this manner by such delays in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) Though a case of insubordination by two members of the cabin crew was reported by the Commander, flight IC 861 of 2nd